

# Embody

*A conversation in four parts on race and baptismal identity*

*Head, shoulders, knees and toes, (knees and toes).*

*Head, shoulders, knees and toes, (knees and toes).*

*Ears and eyes and mouth and nose.*

*Head, shoulders, knees and toes, (knees and toes).*

Most evident on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. sharp, we need to talk about how race has informed and influenced our understanding of the body. Christians identify as a body of believers and are called the body of Christ. “Members of one another” yet race re-creates the body and categorizes it as “other” and according to colors— beige, that is mixed race, black, brown, red, yellow, and white (Romans 12:5). There's no getting around that or the fact that Christians embody the meanings of race— head, shoulders, knees, and toes.

## **HEAD,**

Head in hands, conversations about race and its lingering effects on the North American church, we must ask ourselves, “What were we thinking?” When we decided to make theological sense and space for race, what did we think would happen to our fellowship?

## **Shoulders,**

Christ is the head, so we have a good head on our shoulders, right? Still, we shrug our own when asked about race and its progeny. Nothing good comes from race; it doesn't point us in the direction of the 'kin-dom' coming. So, where is this conversation going?

## **Knees,**

Don't get weak in the knees. We need more than an emotional response to injustice. Let's discuss ways to make this system of color-coded oppression buckle by calling into question these segregating identities, starting with our house of worship.

## **And Toes.**

We cannot tip toe around these conversations. We must make a desegregated faith apart of our proclamation. Race is a 17<sup>th</sup> century invention, which means that Jesus' gospel is raceless. And we must stand firm on that. Now, how do we walk it out?



# Romans

12:4-5, NRSV

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”